

Yesterday, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) passed a controversial set of rules, commonly known as “net neutrality,” that will change how the Internet is governed. The federal government will now regulate the Internet, continuing the Obama Administration’s alarming trend of increasing the federal government’s role in controlling private businesses. Specifically, the new rules will regulate how Internet Service Providers (ISPs) manage the flow of information across their networks and prohibit them from adjusting the Internet connection speed based on the content trying to be accessed. For instance, ISPs will be unable discriminate between someone watching a video for entertainment purposes and a doctor operating on a patient via telemedicine, even if it hurts the ability of the doctor to serve the patient. While I believe that Americans should be able to freely access Internet content efficiently, I strongly oppose the actions taken by the FCC because I believe government overregulation of the Internet is unnecessary and counter-productive.

The Internet has flourished without any government intervention and technical experts have pointed out that in most of the country there is sufficient bandwidth for Internet users to access the content of their choosing without delay. In rural areas like Northern California where greater high-speed service is needed, these regulations will only increase service costs because ISPs will be unable to manage their networks efficiently and the cost of installing Internet infrastructure will increase. Additionally, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled in April that the FCC does not even have the authority to regulate the Internet in this manner. I joined 172 Republicans in May [to urge](#) the FCC to respect the court’s ruling, but unfortunately the agency has decided to unilaterally defy it and ignore the views of Congress. For these reasons, I will support legislation in the 112th

Congress to overturn the net neutrality regulations and put an end to government regulation of the Internet.